Macfarlane Esq. With Dr Stark's best regards.

VITAL STATISTICS

OF

NEW ORLEANS.

BY

JAMES STARK, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.S.A.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH.

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VITAL STATISTICS OF NEW ORLEANS.

THE city of New Orleans, the commercial capital of the State of Louisiana, and the great western port of the American Union, is situated on an alluvial flat on the left bank of the Mississippi, about 104 miles above its debouchure into the Gulf of Mexico. The city is not only built on a marshy alluvial soil, but is surrounded with marshes, and is only about four miles distant from the great Lake Pontchartrain, between the level of which and that of New Orleans there is not exceeding a difference of eighteen or twenty inches. The greater portion of the ground on which New Orleans is built, is from three to nine feet below the high water level of the Mississippi River; and is only kept from being periodically inundated by an extensive embankment called the Levée. This embankment is from four to ten feet in height, from twenty to forty feet in breadth, and extends 43 miles below the city, and 120 miles above it. The river opposite the town is from 110 to 160 feet deep.

The city itself is laid out in regular square blocks, each square having a frontage of 319 feet, and the streets having a width of 40 feet. In the more modern parts of the city the houses are substantially built of brick; but in the old parts of the town and in the suburbs, wood and plaster are the materials of which they are chiefly constructed. Most of the streets are provided with broad foot pavements; several, however, are still unpaved, and the drainage of all is imperfect.

The water used in the city is chiefly rain water, collected from the roofs of the houses, and preserved in large cisterns. Those who wish it, however, may be supplied with that necessary element by a public company. The water supplied by this company is pumped from the river into a reservoir which is about thirty feet above the level of New Orleans, and is distributed by means of pipes through the city. The corporation

also bring water from the river into the town by means of a pipe about a mile in length; but this supply is solely used for the purpose of washing the streets and drains during the hot season, so as to remove the filth which so rapidly accumulates, and by its corruption taints the air.

About twenty years ago a company was formed for the purpose of draining the marshes lying between the city and Lake Pontchartrain. This was effected by means of two powerful steam engines raising the water from ditches cut through these marshes. This great undertaking dried and brought into cultivation about 35 square miles of surface; and, according to the latest accounts we have received, it appears, that since that period the surface of the ground has risen at least ten inches above its former level. The effect of the drainage of such a large extent of swamp is said to have had a manifestly beneficial effect on the healthiness of the city.

Situated in north latitude 29° 58′, it enjoys an almost tropical climate; and the evaporation from the large expanse of marsh and water around it causes the air to be always more or less completely saturated with moisture. Its mean annual temperature varies from 69 to 70° Fahr., and the extreme annual range of temperature from 33 to 88°. Even in the hottest summers, probably in consequence of the great evaporation, the thermometer in the shade rarely exceeds 90° Fahr. The daily range of temperature is extremely small; in the summer months being from 5 to 8° daily, and in the winter and spring months from 8 to 12° daily. On very rare occasions the daily range has been observed so high as 15°.

The annual fall of rain averages from 55 to 60 inches. July is *par excellence* the rainy month; the fall averaging 15 or 16 inches during that month. October is the next most rainy month, then June. March is the driest month of the year, the monthly fall of rain not in general exceeding two inches, sometimes being considerably below that amount.

The average number of rainy days is 59 or 60; of fair days, 200.

During the year 1849 the winds blew as follows: S. 76 days; NE., 71 days; N., 66 days; E., 54 days; SE., 31 days; NW., 19 days; W., 14 days; SW., 12 days; and the remaining days of the year light variable winds, or calm.

The barometric range is not great at New Orleans. It is greatest in February, the daily range being 0·08 of an inch; the monthly range, however, is 0·81 of an inch, viz., from 29·70 to 30·51 inches. The range is least during July and August, amounting to about 0·04 of an inch daily, or 0·27 of an inch during the month, viz., from 29·89 to 30·16 inches. The average pressure of the atmosphere there is 30·057 inches;

and the extreme barometric range during the year from 29·58 to 30·51 inches. The mean barometric pressure is highest in January and February, and lowest in May.

In consequence of the extremely favourable commercial position of New Orleans, the increase of its population has been very rapid, but irregular. Thus, in 1817, the number of the population amounted only to 17,242 persons. In 1830 it had increased to 46,310 persons; but made such rapid strides during the next ten years, that, in 1840, the inhabitants amounted to 102,193 souls. Since then its increase has been much slower. A state census (which we have not seen) was taken in 1847, and from it it is calculated that the population, in 1849, amounted to 105,398 souls.

This population is of a very composite character. Like most American towns, it may be divided into three distinct classes:—1st, Whites; 2d, Free Blacks; 3d, Slaves. The slaves in 1849 amounted to 24,618 persons; but not being able to obtain a sight of the extended census, we are only able to calculate the proportion of the free blacks from the proportion they bear to the general population in the State of Louisiana. In this way we obtain the following numbers as the proportion of the different classes in the population of New Orleans in 1849:—

Whites, . . .	69,588
Free coloured, . .	11,192
Slaves, . . .	24,618
	105,398

The great majority of the whites are foreigners,—a fact easily intelligible from the rapid increase of the city. The native-born inhabitants do not amount to a third of the white population, and a considerable proportion of these are of French extraction. The remainder of the white population consists of natives of the Northern States, of British, French, Portuguese, Dutch, Germans, &c.

The threatened approach of the cholera in 1848, induced the authorities to pass an act for the establishment of "a Board of Health in and for the Parish of New Orleans," one of whose special duties it was, "to make out an annual report to the several councils, as to the health of the city for the preceding year, and to suggest means for improving the same." In fulfilment of this act, a Board of Health was established, and their first report was printed in 1850, having reference to the year 1849. This report, though it greatly disappoints us, and leaves untouched most of the subjects on which it was most desirable information should have been communicated, so far

makes amends for these omissions, by putting it in our power to supply, so far, these omissions, by giving in their appendix three large tables, from which we extract most of the facts relative to the mortality, about to be commented on.

It may be remarked, that, previous to the publication of this document, we knew almost nothing of the mortality prevailing among the inhabitants of the southern cities of the American Union. The only facts which enabled us to guess at the mortality which might prevail, were those published in that valuable official document, the "Statistical Reports of the Sickness and Mortality in the Army, United States of America," drawn up by Dr Thomas Lawson. From this report it appears that the United States Army, when serving in the forts situated in the Lower Mississippi District, were, on a ten years' average, cut off at the rate of 53 annually out of every 1000 of mean strength; or one death every year out of 16·73 men. This proportion did not include the deaths from epidemic cholera, which would have raised the proportion much higher.

By the first report of the Board of Health of New Orleans, it appears that, in 1849, there died in that city 9862 persons, being in the proportion of one death out of every 10·69 inhabitants; or 93·6 deaths out of every 1000 living.

As this large mortality was partly occasioned by the cholera, in order to arrive at the average deaths in ordinary seasons, and from ordinary causes, we must deduct from the above number the deaths from cholera, amounting to 3176, and the still-born, numbering 290. This leaves only 6466 as the number of deaths from ordinary causes, which yields a proportion of one death out of every 16·41 living; or 60·6 deaths annually out of every 1000 of the general population.

This excessive mortality prevailing at New Orleans will be better manifested by contrasting it with that of some of the more northern towns of America, of which we possess the statistics. Thus,—

In Lowell,	14·4	deaths	annually	occur	out of 1000	inhabitants.
Boston,	20 3	„	„	„	1000	living.
Baltimore,	25·6	„	„	„	1000	„
New York,	26·3	„	„	„	1000	„
Philadelphia.	32·7	„	„	„	1000	„
New Orleans,	60·6	„	„	„	1000	„

In New Orleans the following was the distribution of the 9862 deaths, which occurred there during the year 1849, in so far as relates to the countries of which the persons were natives:—

Foreigners,	3569
Natives of United States,	505
Natives of Louisiana,	29
Natives of New Orleans,	774
Slaves, and unknown,	4985

This table corroborates what was formerly stated as to the

small proportion of native-born residents in New Orleans, and demonstrates that the chief portion of the inhabitants is composed of persons who are immigrants or settlers.

The following Table exhibits the age at death of the persons who died at New Orleans during the year 1849, arranged according to sex and colour:—

TABLE OF AGES.

Ages.	Whites.		Coloured.		Total
	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	
Under one month,.....	167	92	35	34	328
One month to 1 year,.....	248	225	84	57	614
1 to 5 years,.....	367	336	98	102	903
5 „ 10 „	154	117	36	35	342
10 „ 20 „	255	139	78	58	530
20 „ 30 „	1352	435	126	78	1991
30 „ 40 „	1125	330	87	61	1603
40 „ 50 „	561	159	54	59	833
50 „ 60 „	222	84	28	48	382
60 „ 70 „	102	37	19	34	192
70 „ 80 „	38	31	13	19	101
80 „ 90 „	8	14	11	15	48
90 „ 100 „	1	4	2	13	20
105			1		1
110				1	1
130				1	1
Unknown,.....	813	338	325	206	1682
Total Deaths,.....	5413	2341	997	821	9572
	7754		1818		
Still-born,.....	133	87	39	31	290
	220		70		

From this table it appears, that of the white population 7754 persons died during the year 1849, in the relative proportion of 5413 males, and 2341 females. This great disparity in the proportion of the sexes of itself proves that the greater proportion of the whites inhabiting that town consists of persons drawn thither from other quarters of the globe for trade or commerce; and we all know that the necessary consequence of this is a great preponderance of males. The preponderance of the male sex is not observed to the same extent among the coloured inhabitants. The above table shows that there died of coloured persons 1818 individuals, in the relative proportions of 997 males and 821 females,—a proportion of sexes very nearly the same as that existing among the living coloured population.

A comparison of the proportional mortality among the white and coloured races at New Orleans exhibits some striking re-

sults. By the statement of the population above given, it appears that the white population in 1849 numbered 69,588 persons. Of these, 7754 died during the year,—being in the proportion of one death out of every 8·97 white persons, or 111·1 deaths out of every 1000 living. To arrive at the average number of deaths among the white inhabitants of the town, we must deduct the deaths from the epidemic cholera, amounting to 2623, leaving 5131 as the annual deaths among the white population from the ordinary causes of mortality. This gives a proportion of one death out of every 13·5 persons, or 73·7 deaths out of every 1000 white inhabitants.

The coloured population in 1849 amounted to 35,810 persons. Of these, 1818 died during that year; being in the proportion of one death out of every 19·7 living, or 50·7 deaths in the year out of every 1000 of the coloured population. As experience has shown that the deaths from epidemic cholera are just so many added to the usual mortality of the place, we must deduct them (amounting to 553) from the above number, when there is left 1255 as the usual number of deaths in the year among the coloured races. This gives a proportion of one death out of every 28·5 living, or 35·0 deaths in the year out of every 1000 coloured persons.

These facts then exhibit the great disparity between the effects of the climate of New Orleans on the white and coloured races, as the following summary demonstrates.

One white dies annually out of every 13·5 white inhabitants.
One coloured do. do. 28·5 coloured do.

In other words, the climate of New Orleans is more than twice as fatal to the white as it is to the coloured races.

These facts are quite passed over in the Report of the Board of Health, which strains at the effort to conceal the true state of matters, and make the mortality appear as trifling as possible.

The want of the particulars relative to the ages of the living prevents us instituting a close comparison between the mortality of the white and coloured races at different periods of life; and as the great preponderance of males between the ages of 20 and 40 destroys the natural proportion of deaths in the males, the ratio of mortality at different periods of life can only be calculated for the females.

The following table exhibits the ratio of mortality at different periods of life in the white females and in the coloured females. As we know not the ages of the living, the columns for the white and coloured females are not comparable with each other, but they illustrate very well the ratio of mortality of each class separately, at different periods of life.

Ages.	White Females.		Coloured Females.	
	No. of Deaths.	Ratio per 1000 Deaths.	No. of Deaths.	Ratio per 1000 Deaths.
Under 1 year, ...	317	158·	91	148·
1 to 5 years, ...	336	167·	102	165·
Total under 5 years,	653	326·	193	313·
5 to 20 years, ...	256	127·	93	151·
20 to 60 do.	1008	503·	246	400·
Above 60 do.	86	42·	83	118·
Total,	2003		615	

This table exhibits some curious results. Though more than two whites die for every one coloured person in proportion to their respective populations, it is interesting to remark that the relative proportion to the total deaths under 5 years is very nearly alike in both white and coloured females; and is proportionally less in the white females from 5 to 20 years of age. From the proportional mortality, however, at ages above 20, it is very apparent that the chances of life are much superior to the coloured than to the white persons, and the ages attained by the coloured manifestly greatly exceed those reached by the whites. From the peculiarity in the ages of the population at New Orleans, the great majority being settlers in the prime of life, it is quite apparent that no conclusions having the most distant approach to the truth could be drawn from a calculation of the mean age at death. From the single circumstance that the majority of the deaths occurs among persons between the ages of 20 and 40, who have been born and reared elsewhere, but have come to New Orleans to settle and to die, it is manifest that the mean age at death in this most unhealthy town must exceed that of even the most healthy town of America.

It has frequently been stated relative to New Orleans, and the latest works on America repeat the statement as if it were a fact, that the mortality occurring among the newly-arrived settlers is much greater than among the old residenters. This statement rests on no authority; and it may be very confidently asserted the reverse is the truth. In every tropical climate of which we possess the statistics, it has been found that the mortality increases with length of residence, and it is extremely unlikely that New Orleans will prove any exception to this universal and well established law of nature.

Before leaving this table, attention may be directed to the fact of the preponderance of males among the still-births in both the white and coloured races. The same fact holds good under every climate and in every race. A greater proportion

of males than of females dies before birth, during birth, and during one or two years after birth.

The next table exhibits the principal Diseases which proved fatal to the white and coloured inhabitants of New Orleans during the year 1849.

TABLE OF DISEASES.

Class.	Disease.	Whites.	Coloured.
I.	Yellow fever,	766	3
Zymotic.	Typhoid fever,	158	20
	Typhus fever,	159	5
	Remittent fever,	17	1
	Intermittent fever,	41	5
	Scarlet fever,	16	6
	Cholera morbus,	74	35
	Epidemic cholera,	2623	553
	Cholera Infantum,	29	11
	Croup,	41	9
	Diarrhœa,	223	21
	Dysentery,	290	35
	Hooping-cough,	22	5
	Measles,	9	1
	Small-pox,	78	55
	Other zymotic diseases,	191	29
II.	Cancer,	5	1
Sporadic	Debility,	153	29
Diseases.	Dropsy,	41	19
	Abscess,	6	2
	Scrofula,	6	4
	Other sporadic diseases,	24	18
III.	Apoplexy,	64	37
Nervous	Congestion of brain,	95	22
System.	Cerebritis,	72	25
	Convulsions, fits,	248	62
	Delirium tremens,	56	8
	Epilepsy,	7	3
	Hydrocephalus,	16	7
	Meningitis,	41	24
	Tetanus,	42	17
	Trismus nascentium,	113	59
	Paraplegia, paralysis,	5	2
	Encephalitis,	10	5
	Hemiplegia,	1	1
	Intemperance,	15	4
	Softening of brain,	7	0
	Other brain diseases,	35	8
IV.	Phthisis, consumption,	445	147
Respiratory	Pneumonia,	51	24
Organs.	Pleurisy,	17	4
	Bronchitis,	18	6
	Catarrh,	19	15
	Laryngitis,	16	3
	Sunstroke (?),	19	1
	Asthma,	3	0
	Other diseases, respiratory organs,	54	29

Class.	Disease.	Whites.	Coloured.
V.	Heart, &c., disease . . .	53	32
VI.	Ascitis, ...	17	1
Digestive	Dentition, ...	79	23
Organs.	Gastritis, enteritis, &c., . .	296	88
	Liver disease, ...	41	9
	Colic, &c., ...	8	3
	Marasmus, ...	48	17
	Other diseases of organs of digestion,	15	12
VII.	Urinary and kidney diseases, .	10	3
VIII.	Childbirth, ...	11	7
	Uterine, &c., diseases . .	9	3
IX.	Rheumatism, ...	4	1
	Joint, &c., disease . . .	4	0
X.	Integumentary diseases, . .	3	0
XI.	Old age, ...	16	38
XII.	Accidents, murders, violent deaths,	217	44
	Suicides, ...	3	1
	Not ascertained, . . .	481	164
	Total deaths,	7754	1818

The table from which the above is extracted presents some laughable peculiarities. Thus gastric, nervous, ataxic, central (what is that?) scarlet, mesenteric and puerperal fevers are put as forms of ague-fever. This must be attributed to a printer's error. Anæmia, usually considered a sporadic disease, finds a place in the New Orleans nosology under diseases of the nervous system, while "sunstroke," usually reckoned a disease of the nervous system, is classed among diseases of the organs of respiration. Disease of the spinal marrow, beyond all doubt a disease of the nervous system, is placed under diseases of the joints and organs of locomotion and recto-vaginal cancer under disease of the *urinary* organs. These and such like are the curious anomalies which the New Orleans table of diseases exhibits, and makes us fear that pathological knowledge in that far-famed commercial capital is not in such a satisfactory state as it ought to be.

The above table shows that the chief diseases at New Orleans, and those which characterise the region in which it is situated, are intermittent and yellow fevers, diarrhœa, dysentery, endemic cholera, and more or less inflammatory affections of the stomach and bowels, consumption, pneumonia, and affections of the liver. These, in fact, are the diseases usually prevalent in intertropical climates, where the region is marshy, the air saturated with moisture and miasmatic effluvia, and the heat is great.

In all tropical climates fevers form the great outlet of human life; and New Orleans is no exception to the general rule. The Board of Health there, however, endeavour to prove that it is not only an exception to this law of nature, but that the proportional mortality of deaths from fevers is small. On

consulting the table, we find that the deaths from diseases termed fevers amounted to 1508 in number, giving a proportion of one death out of every 69 of the general population; or 14·3 deaths in the year out of every 1000 persons living. The following table exhibits the proportional mortality from fevers in some other of the American towns.

Boston loses annually by	Fever		1·25	out of every	1000 living.
New York	„	„	2·12	„	„
Philadelphia	„	„	4·21	„	„
Baltimore	„	„	4·22	„	„
New Orleans	„	„	14·3	„	„

In other words,

New Orleans loses by fever		12	persons annually for every 1 at Boston.
„	„	$6\frac{8}{10}$	for 1 at New York.
„	„	$3\frac{4}{10}$	for 1 at Philadelphia.
„	„	$3\frac{4}{10}$	for 1 at Baltimore.

It thus appears that the mortality from fever at New Orleans, instead of being small, is extremely large, greatly exceeding that of any other American town of which we possess the statistics.

It may be remarked that the above table of diseases shows the remarkable fact of the immunity of the coloured races to the fevers which prove so fatal to the white races. Thus, while 766 white persons were cut off by yellow fever, only 3 coloured persons died from that disease during 1849.

This fact of itself proves, that when we speak of the geographical distribution of disease, or of the comparative healthiness of a district, we must always do so with a special regard to the race of men inhabiting the locality. In so far as the coloured races are concerned, New Orleans is a very healthy town, free from yellow fever, diarrhœa, dysentery, and liver disease, and not more ravaged by consumption or other pulmonary diseases than the most favoured towns of the American Union. But with regard to the white population, it is pre-eminently unhealthy, and ravaged by all these diseases.

It might naturally be expected that in a town where the epidemic and endemic mortality was so high, the deaths from all other diseases would fall below the average of more healthy towns,—in other words, it might be expected that the fatal epidemics would swallow up the deaths which would have occurred from other diseases. This appears to have been the conclusion at which the New Orleans Board of Health arrived from a comparison of the deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs and from consumption, with the mortality from all diseases. From using these false data, they very innocently arrived at the conclusion that New Orleans was peculiarly exempt from con-

sumption and from diseases of the respiratory organs, and that they "were more favoured in these respects than any large city in this hemisphere."

The deaths in New Orleans from diseases of the respiratory organs, amounted in 1849 to 871, being in the proportion of 8·26 out of every 1000 living. The following are the proportions in which lung diseases prove fatal in some of the American towns, than which the New Orleans Board of Health boast they are so much more highly favoured.

Boston loses by lung disease		4.99	annually in every	1000 living.
Philadelphia,	„	5·47	„ „	1000 „
Baltimore,	„ „	5·84	„ „	1000 „
New York,	„	6·34	„ „	1000 „
New Orleans,	„	8·26	„ „	1000 „

As to consumption, the very same holds good. 592 died at New Orleans from consumption in 1849, giving a proportion of 5·61 deaths from consumption in every 1000 living. The proportional deaths from the same disease, in a few of the other American towns, stands thus,—

Boston loses by consumption		4·03	in every	1000 living.
Baltimore,	„ „	4.12		1000 „
Philadelphia,	„	4·20		1000 „
New York,	„	4·96		1000 „
New Orleans,	„	5·61		1000 „

Thus we see that an unhealthy town not only exhibits a much greater mortality, in regard to the whole class of epidemic and endemic diseases, but also with regard to every disease to which the human frame is liable; and notably so with regard to diseases of the organs of respiration.

Let us now shortly compare the mortality of a few of the diseases among the white and coloured races, for the purpose of exhibiting the comparative liability of each race to certain diseases, or classes of disease.

Of the whole class of zymotic (epidemic, endemic, and contagious) diseases, the mortality among the whites amounted to 4737; and among the coloured races to 794; being in the proportion of one death from zymotic disease out of every 14·7 white persons, but only one death out of every 45·1 coloured persons.

This excessive liability to death, from the class of zymotic diseases, among the white races at New Orleans, extends to all the specific diseases of that class, with the single exception of small-pox. Small-pox cut off only one person during the year, out of every 890 whites; but one out of every 650 coloured persons during the same period.

Yellow fever cut off in the proportion of one out of every 90 whites; but only one out of every 11,936 coloured persons.

Typhus fever cut off one out of every 437 whites; but only one out of every 7162 coloured persons.

Cholera cut off one out of every 26 of the white races; but only one out of every 64 of the coloured race.

Diarrhœa cut off one out of every 312 white persons; but only one out of every 1705 coloured persons.

Dysentery proved fatal to one out of every 239 of the white inhabitants; but to one only out of every 1023 of the coloured inhabitants.

The mortality from diseases of the brain and nervous system amounted to 827 among the whites, and to 284 among the coloured races; giving a proportion of one death in every 84 whites, but only one death out of every 126 coloured persons.

The mortality from diseases of the organs of respiration, amounted to 642 among the white races, and to 229 among the coloured; giving a proportion of one death from chest diseases out of every 108 white persons living, but only one out of every 156 coloured persons. Of this class of diseases, consumption proved fatal to 445 white persons, but to only 147 coloured; giving a proportion of one death from consumption, during the year, out of every 156 white persons, but only one death from that disease out of every 243 coloured persons. In other words, consumption proved as fatal to the white inhabitants of New Orleans, as the whole class of diseases of the respiratory organs proved to the coloured races.

Diseases of the organs of digestion (not including the epidemics) proved fatal to 504 whites, and 143 coloured persons; giving a proportion of one death by such diseases out of every 138 whites, but only one out of every 250 coloured persons.

We shall now turn to the monthly returns of the deaths in New Orleans, to ascertain what influence season exerts on the mortality of the white and coloured population.

Table showing the Monthly Mortality of Whites and Coloured during the year 1849 (*excluding cholera and the still-born*).

	Whites.			Coloured.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
January,.....	225	126	351	68	63	131
February, ...	189	85	274	39	32	71
March, ...	304	152	456	49	63	112
April,.....	240	159	399	72	75	147
May, ...	238	112	350	69	49	118
June, ...	240	158	398	59	62	121
July, ...	201	89	290	52	45	97
August,.....	238	122	360	47	60	107
September, ...	524	141	665	36	36	72
October, ...	601	171	773	41	48	89
November, ...	336	115	451	78	46	124
December,.....	240	141	381	59	47	106

By this table we perceive that the influence of season on the mortality is most marked; but that the effect is very different on the white and coloured races. Generally speaking, the months most fatal to the white population are the very months in which the mortality among the coloured races is lowest. It is, however, interesting to remark, that that month which is most favourable to the health of the white is also the month which is most healthful to the coloured race,—viz. the month of February.

In so far as the white race is concerned, the most unhealthy and fatal months are September, October, and November, those months in which there is the greatest accumulation of heat, moisture, and miasmatic exhalations. February, the healthiest month to the white, is also the coolest month of the year, and exhibits the greatest range of temperature. A remarkable exception to the general rule of the hottest month being the most unhealthy occurs in July. This to the white is the second most healthy month of the year, and the circumstance is easily accounted for. At New Orleans July is the most rainy month of the year; the rain descends in perfect torrents, and sweeps every thing before it, purifying the atmosphere, dissolving and carrying off the miasmatic exhalations, and sweeping the streets and open drains clear of all corrupting matters. This effect of heavy falls of rain has been remarked in every climate, and has frequently been brought under the public notice in the Mortality Reports of London and of Edinburgh. The cause is therefore quite capable of producing the effect.

In consequence of the clearing of the atmosphere, &c. in July, aided also by occasional heavy falls of rain in August, the mortality among the whites in August also continues low. But towards the end of August yellow fever begins to break out, and the mortality suddenly rises during September to double the number of deaths in August; attains its acmé in October; and only slowly subsides with the retirement of the sun to the southern hemisphere.

This marked influence of season is not observed among the coloured races. With them April is the most fatal month, though it is difficult to ascribe this to any special cause. Then follows January, November, and June. The least fatal month to the coloured population at New Orleans is February; then September, October, and July.

The next table is drawn up for the purpose of showing the influence of season on a few of the most fatal and prevalent diseases in New Orleans, distinguishing the white and coloured races.

Table of the Monthly Progress of certain Diseases among White and Coloured Persons.

	Cholera.		Yellow Fev.		Diarrhœa.		Dysen tery.		Consumpt.	
	White.	Col.	White.	Col.	White.	Col.	White.	Col.	White.	Col.
January	535	93	—	—	13	3	26	2	43	11
February	173	49	—	—	15	—	10	1	50	10
March	673	140	—	—	23	—	34	6	34	18
April	326	79	—	—	19	3	34	4	34	13
May	426	81	—	—	12	4	21	3	34	13
June	260	63	—	—	12	1	37	3	26	10
July	25	6	1	—	19	1	17	4	29	18
August	7	0	17	—	9	1	20	3	40	15
September	3	0	214	—	25	2	18	2	27	11
October	7	1	415	1	19	3	30	1	39	13
November	85	22	111	1	25	2	22	3	40	6
December	103	19	8	1	32	1	21	4	49	11

From this table it appears that the influence of season on some diseases is most marked, while on others it is less apparent. In northern regions it has been remarked that the ravages of cholera are arrested by the severity of winter. At New Orleans we find that, like plague, its ravages are arrested by the extreme heats of summer. The very cause, however, which stopped the progress of one disease, loosened the reins of another; so that, no sooner did cholera begin to abate, than its place was supplied by yellow fever,—a disease which solely rages while the accumulated heat is greatest, and the miasmatic exhalations are most abundant in the atmosphere.

This table exhibits, in a very striking manner, the marvellous exemption of the coloured races to the influence of those causes which give rise to yellow fever. Thus, while 766 cases of yellow fever prove fatal to the white population, only 3 prove fatal to the coloured races. The coloured races at New Orleans seem to have a somewhat similar exemption from diarrhœa and dysentery; and even with regard to consumption, it is not a little interesting to observe how much smaller is the proportion of the coloured population cut off by that disease.

The above table does not indicate that season has much influence at New Orleans on the mortality from diarrhœa and dysentery; but the observations would require to be extended over a greater series of years, before any general conclusions could be drawn from them.